

II ✓
SANITAGE URBAIN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and the
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for the Year
1971

FOREWORD

Health Centre,
Swanage,
Dorset.

To the Chairman and Members of the Swanage Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present my eighth annual report on the state of the public health in the Swanage Urban District. This report covers the calendar year 1971. Those sections of the report concerning sanitary conditions and public health inspections have been prepared by the Public Health Inspector.

There was no serious outbreak of infectious disease during the year, but there was a small outbreak of food poisoning mainly in two schools at the end of July.

The number of deaths exceeded live births by 52. This is a large excess for the size of population, but the number of retired persons moving into the area has to be taken into consideration. The comparative rates are comparable to those of England and Wales as a whole.

When the recent proposal for public toilets in the vicinity of the Council's Works Depot is implemented, the town will be well served with modern conveniences, except in the Durlston area. One is required near the Lighthouse.

I agree with the Public Health Inspector that the public should complain in no uncertain manner when unhygienic methods are observed in food premises. This applies to food handling, and to foods placed on display in shops and in restaurants and cafes. His comments are under the heading "Food Premises" on page 9.

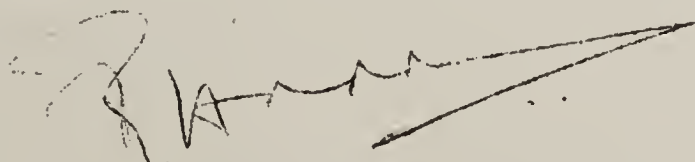
The report is set out in sections in the following order:-

	Pages
Statistics	1 - 3
Sanitary Circumstances	4 - 6
Sanitary Inspection	7 - 8
Inspection and Supervision of Food	9 - 10
Housing	11 - 12
Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease	13 - 15
Factories Act	16
Climatic Data	17

I am most grateful to Councillors and my fellow officers, especially Mr. K.W. Greenwood, for their helpful co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,


Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1972.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

W. E. HADDEN, O.ST.J., M.B., B.S., H.F.C.M., D.T.M. & H., D.A., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

K. W. GREENWOOD, H.A.P.H.I., Meat and Food Certificate

Office accommodation and clerical assistance for the Medical Officer of Health who is also the Medical Officer of Health to the Wareham Borough Council, the Wareham and Purbeck Rural District Council and Senior Assistant County Medical Officer, Dorset, are provided by the authorities concerned.

In addition to his statutory duties, the Public Health Inspector is also the authorised officer under the Pet Animals Act 1951, the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963, the Animal Boarding Act 1963, the Scrap Dealers' Act 1964 and the Slaughter of Poultry Act 1967.

The Works Committee of the Council deals with all matters concerning public health.

Note: Area Comparability Factors - (Vital Statistics)

The area comparability factors for birth and death rates included in this report are supplied by the Registrar General. They make allowances for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales as a whole. In addition, the death comparability factor has been adjusted specifically to take account of the presence of any residential institution in the area. When the local crude birth and death rates are multiplied by the appropriate area comparability factor they are comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales or with the corresponding adjusted rate for any other area.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of the District - 2,762 acres with a further 31 acres of foreshore.

Population	...	at Census 1971	...	8,550
	as estimated by Registrar General mid 1970		...	8,190
	as estimated by Registrar General mid 1971		...	7,700
Total number of inhabited houses	-	at end of 1970	...	3,153
	-	at end of 1971	...	3,207
Rateable value as at 1st April, 1971			...	£498,051
Sum represented by a Penny Rate for the year ending		31st March 1971	...	£4,784

VITAL STATISTICS

Area comparability factors - for births 1.44; for deaths 0.61

				Comparative Rates	
Live Births	Total	Male	Female	Swanage	England & Wales
Total registered	...	90	46	44	
Legitimate	...	78	39	39	
Illegitimate	...	12	7	5	
Rate per 1000 population - crude	11.7			16.8	16.0
Rate of local adjusted birth rate to national rate				1.05	1.00
Still Births	Total	Male	Female		
Total registered	...	1	1	-	
Legitimate	...	-	-	-	
Illegitimate	...	1	1	-	
Rate per 1000 total live and still births				11	12
Deaths	Total	Male	Female		
Total registered	...	142	61	81	
Rate per 1000 population - crude	18.4			11.2	11.6
Ratio of local adjusted death rate to national rate				0.97	1.00
Infant Deaths (under 1 year)	Total	Male	Female		
Total registered	...	-	-	-	
Legitimate	...	-	-	-	
Illegitimate	...	-	-	-	
Infant Mortality Rates					
Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births				-	18
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under four weeks per 1000 total live births)				-	12
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under one week per 1000 total live births)				-	10
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1000 total live and still births)				-	22
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)					
Number of deaths	...	Nil.			

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1971

Registrar General's Official Return

Cause of death	Sex	TOTAL ALL AGES	Under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks & under 1 Year	AGE IN YEARS										75 & Over
					1 -	5 -	15 -	25 -	35 -	45 -	55 -	65 -			
Late effects of respiratory T.B.	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leukaemia	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other malignant neoplasms	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Diabetes mellitus	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other diseases of nervous system	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hypertensive disease	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	M	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-

Causes of Death at Different Periods of Life During 1971 - continued

Cause of death	Sex	TOTAL ALL AGES	Under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks & under 1 Year	AGE IN YEARS								75 & Over
					1 -	5 -	15 -	25 -	35 -	45 -	55 -	65 -	
Other forms of heart disease	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Cerebrovascular disease	M	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	5
	F	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	8
Other diseases of circulatory system	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Pneumonia	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Bronchitis and emphysema	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Peptic ulcer	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Appendicitis	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cirrhosis of liver	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Other diseases of digestive system	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Motor vehicle accidents	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
All other accidents	M	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total all causes	M	61	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	11	17	30
	F	81	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	2	17	57

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The Dorset Water Board supplies water in the Urban area. This Board was formed on the 1st April, 1969, from the amalgamation of the Poole and East Dorset Water Board with the West Dorset Water Board. The amount of water supplied during the year has been adequate and maintained at a satisfactory standard of purity.

The Board's southern area includes the Urban District of Swanage. Water distributed in the District is derived from the Sturminster Marshall Waterworks and the Corfe Mullen Waterworks. The former Admiralty main conveys the water to Holton Heath and the new main from there is via Wareham and Corfe Castle. At any time the water supplied may be from either Works or a mixture of both. The water from Corfe Mullen has had most of its hardness removed chemically before distribution. The Sturminster Marshall water however is hard as there is no softening process at those Works. Otherwise the supplies are fully treated and satisfactory. Water from Briantspuddle and Milborne St. Andrew can be pumped to Swanage via a main running from Gallows Hill to Wareham.

The chlorination apparatus at Corfe Castle Waterworks which has never functioned satisfactorily, was replaced during the year by equipment of a different manufacture and is now giving good service.

Ullwell Water Works are used throughout the twenty-four hours pumping water for use in Swanage only. At peak periods this supply is augmented by water from Corfe Castle or Sturminster Marshall/Corfe Mullen.

Bacteriological examinations were made at the Board's Laboratory giving the following results -

Raw Water

Source	No. of Samples	Max. Plate count at 37°C per ml.	Samples E. Coli I present
Ullwell	57	500	1
Corfe Castle	22	1500	13

Treated Water

Source	Total No. of Samples	More than 10 Coliform per 100 ml.	More than 2 E. Coli per 100 ml.	1-2 E.Coli with 3 or more Coli- form	Coliform in 100 ml of 2 con- secutive samples
Ullwell	57	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Corfe Castle	54	1	Nil	Nil	Nil

Distributed Water from Consumers' Taps.

Area of Supply	Total No. of Samples	More than 10 Coliform per 100 ml.	More than 2 E.Coli/100 ml.	1-2 E.Coli with 3 or more Coliform	Coliform in 100ml of 2 consecutive samples	Max. Plate count per ml 37°C.
Swanage U.D.	12	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	500

Frequent checks of chlorine residual are made in the control of treatment plants and in supplies taken from mains and consumers' taps throughout the area.

CHEMICAL ANALYSES

The following chemical analyses of sources of supply in the District have been supplied by the Dorset Water Board's Chemist -

Chemical results in milligrammes per litre

Source	Ullwell	Corfe Castle
Reaction, pH Value	7.4	7.5
Colour	Colourless	Colourless
Turbidity	4	5
Conductivity, micromhos/cm ³ at 20°C	380	350
Taste	Pleasant	Pleasant
Odour	Odourless	Odourless
Total Dissolved Solids (dried at 180°C)	260	235
Temporary Hardness as CaCO ₃ (Carbonate)	120	115
Permanent Hardness as CaCO ₃ (Non-Carbonate)	65	55
Total Hardness as CaCO ₃ (by EDTA)	185	170
Calcium Hardness as CaCO ₃ (by EDTA)	165	150
Magnesium Hardness as CaCO ₃ (by difference)	20	20
Total Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	160	150
Free Carbon Dioxide as CO ₂	14	8
Total Iron as Fe	Nil	0.05
Silica as SiO ₂	8.0	8.5
Nitrogen in Nitrates	1.2	2.5
Nitrogen in Nitrites	Nil	Nil
Ammoniacal Nitrogen as N	< 0.01	0.02
Albuminoid Nitrogen as N	< 0.01	0.02
Chlorine in Chlorides as Cl	35	35
Sulphates as SO ₄	20	15
Fluorides as F	< 0.05	0.05
Phosphates as PO ₄	< 0.05	0.10
Oxygen Absorbed (4 hrs at 37°C)	< 0.05	0.1
Sodium and Potassium	Na 17.5, K 0.5	Na 18.0, K 0.6

Additional Bacteriological Examinations

In addition to the samples taken by the Water Board, ten samples were taken by the District Public Health Inspector for examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Dorchester. All these samples were satisfactory bacteriologically.

Water Supply to Houses in the District

All houses in the District are supplied with the Dorset Water Board's water.

Sewerage and Drainage

The Town's sewage is discharged untreated into the sea in deep water off Peveril Point. Sewage from the village of Langton Matravers is discharged untreated into the Swanage sewers and sewage from the hamlet of Acton. Difficulty is experienced when there is a block or a possible leak from a sewer as there is no detailed map of the sewers which have been laid in the past in the Town. A map showing the course of the older sewers and their depths would be invaluable.

During July and August widespread bacteriological counts of sea-water in Swanage Bay showed that there were only small numbers of contaminating organisms. These counts were considerably lower than the standard suggested at the Symposium on Water Pollution Control in Coastal Areas held in 1970 by the Institute of Water Pollution Control. Higher counts were obtained at the points where the Ulwell and Swanage streams discharge into the sea. The streams are still being investigated but it would appear that the high counts are due to agriculture on the outskirts of the town.

Surface water is drained mainly into the Swanage and Ulwell streams or directly on to the foreshore. In some areas, however, surface water is discharged into sewers particularly in the Taunton Road, Park Road area, which does cause occasional flooding in the area of The Square. Certain works have been carried out during the year and it is hoped that in the future this flooding will be obviated.

Closet Accommodation

Number of dwelling houses draining to cesspool or septic tank	...	16
Number of dwelling houses with pail closet	...	2
Number of cesspools constructed during the year	...	-
Number of cesspools abolished	...	-
Number of pail closets abolished	...	-

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Summary of Visits and Inspections

Public Health and Housing Acts

Dwelling houses (preliminary visits)	...	...	186
Dwelling houses (re-visits and works in progress)	...	...	140
Council house inspections	...	...	139
Drainage: preliminary visits	...	...	49
tests	...	...	9
re-visits	...	...	46
public sewer	...	...	17
Visits re accumulation of rubbish	...	...	18
Caravan sites	...	...	215
Public conveniences	...	...	82
Infectious diseases, enquiries and visits	...	...	112
Infectious disease disinfection carried out	...	...	1
Persons requiring care and attention, & verminous conditions			10
Inspections to refuse tip	...	...	57
Housing applications and exchange tenancies	...	...	40
Noise abatement visits	...	...	1

Food and Drugs Act

Butchers shops	...	...	95
Fried fish shops	...	...	51
Wet fish shops	...	...	18
Grocers shops	...	...	48
Licensed premises	...	...	36
Greengrocers	...	...	10
Cafes, restaurants, ice-cream & food preparation premises			411
Dairies, cowsheds and milkshops	...	...	30
Bakehouses	...	...	37

General

Local land charge searches	...	...	18
Factories Act	...	...	70
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	120
Visits to Waterworks	...	...	9
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises visits	...	...	115

Statutory and Informal Notices (Public Health, Housing and Factory Acts)

<u>Notices</u>	<u>Number Served</u>	<u>Number complied with</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>
Informal	144	143	1
Statutory	-	-	-

Verminous Premises

There was no serious infestation of premises during the year.

Refuse Collection

A weekly collection of refuse is made throughout the town. An additional collection is made during the summer from the larger hotels, cafes and restaurants. This collection is not chargeable and is in addition to any collection made by agreement with occupiers.

During 1969, a pilot scheme of paper sack refuse collection was commenced by interested hoteliers and householders purchasing from the Council the initial equipment; this is continuing with satisfactory results but only expanding slowly because the initial equipment has to be bought by the householders themselves.

Refuse Disposal

The disposal of refuse is carried out by controlled tipping in disused quarry workings which is relatively cheap and satisfactory as a method of disposal. Paper and polythene are liable to cause unsightly conditions around the tip area unless carefully handled. During 1971, conditions at the tip were greatly improved.

Rodent Control

A Rodent Operative is employed jointly with Wareham Borough and the Wareham and Purbeck Rural District. The District is inspected for rats and other rodents under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector. All complaints were investigated and if necessary treated. 195 inspections were carried out by the Rodent Operative in the District. Special attention is given to the control of rats in the refuse disposal area.

Complaints of nuisance from pigeons in the Town Centre were received during the year. Trapping was continued by the Rodent Operative to attempt to reduce their number.

Noise Abatement

Visits were made to investigate noise. No notices were served.

Clean Air Act, 1956.

It was not found necessary to take action for the abatement of smoke nuisance during the year.

Caravans and Camping Sites

There are eight licensed sites in the district capable of accommodating 689 static and 82 transit caravans. In addition, the Council's Municipal Caravan Park provides sites for a further 251 static caravans. Occupation of all these caravans is restricted to the period from April to October inclusive. Further sites are required for touring caravans.

The restaurant at the Municipal Caravan Site continues to be open during the period caravans are occupied. The restaurant is also used for social functions out of season.

Indiscriminate camping in fields and on grass verges in the outskirts of the District continues, especially in the Durlston and Lighthouse areas. The camping is in tents and as no toilet facilities are available a certain degree of nuisance results. Tents are accepted at two of the caravan sites to a total of 110 but this is insufficient for the demand for sites for tents.

Public Conveniences

There are nine public conveniences in the District. Only one convenience has no washing facilities. Vandalism continues to be a serious nuisance in the public conveniences and hinders the maintenance of the washing facilities provided.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

All milk sold in the District is specially designated and most of it pasteurised. The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for this area and have issued 18 dealers licences for the sale of pre-packed milk. There are more dealers now than there used to be as more shops sell ultra high temperature cartoned milk.

In addition to the above, there is one registered distributor in the District.

Milk Sampling

Thirty-one samples of milk were taken in the district by the Food and Drugs Authority during the year. All samples passed the statutory tests.

Ice-Cream

The majority of ice cream retailed in the district is pre-packed. Seven retailers sell "soft ice cream" reconstituted from cold-mix preparations.

Supervision of premises was maintained during the year. Eighteen samples were submitted for the methylene blue reductase test in accordance with the Ice-cream (Heat-treatment) Regulations and the following results were obtained -

<u>Provisional Grades</u>	<u>No. of Samples</u>
1	14
2	4
3	0
4	0

All samples falling into categories 3 and 4 are investigated.

Food Premises

Swanage, as in most holiday towns, has a large proportion of premises used for residential catering ranging from the household providing occasional bed and breakfast to the large hotel. There are many shops selling food and a large number of cafes and restaurants. The premises mainly are satisfactory and comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations. Although at times it is necessary to take informal action to remedy unsatisfactory practices, the main danger in catering and retail food premises is the food handler. Despite the Food Hygiene Regulations having been amended so as to be more specific, it is felt that the public should complain in no uncertain manner at the time they observe unhygienic methods being adopted by food handlers. Furthermore, if the public patronised only really hygienic establishments, proprietors and staff would realise that cleanliness pays.

Food handlers who are contacts of cases of food poisoning, whether confirmed or suspected, are investigated and, if necessary, temporarily suspended from work.

Slaughter-house

There is no slaughter-house in the District, all meat being slaughtered elsewhere and conveyed to the town in properly conducted meat vans.

Inspections of meat delivery vans are carried out together with inspection of meat on arrival as well as during sale.

1. Number of Food Premises by Type of business in the Area

Grocers and General Stores	23	Bakeries	4
Greengrocers	6	Fish Shops	5
Butchers Shops	7	Fried Fish Shops	3
Licensed premises	15	Confectioners	36
Cafes and restaurants	30	(selling ice cream)	
(excluding hotels, private hotels or guest houses)			
			<u>Total:</u> 129

2. Number of Food Premises by Type Registered

Manufacture of sausages	6	Sale of ice-cream	36
Fish Frying	3	Manufacture of ice-cream	4
			<u>Total:</u> 49

3. Number of inspections of Registered Food Premises

Manufacture of sausages	46
Fish Frying	51
Ice-cream	119
Dairy premises	25

Notices (Food and Drugs Act, 1955)

Informal Notices	...	116
Informal Notices complied with	...	110
Informal Notices outstanding	...	6

Food Condemned

Fresh meat	...	95 lbs.
Fresh fish	...	50 fresh fish.
Meat (tinned)	...	110 tins
Fish (tinned)	...	56 "
Miscellaneous (tinned) foods	...	206 "
Deep frozen foods	...	195 itens

H O U S I N G

Compared with most towns Swanage is fortunate in not having any typical slum dwellings. In fact there are only isolated properties that might possibly come within the scope of the Housing Act 1957. There are houses that lack the modern amenities of indoor sanitation, bathrooms and hot water supply. Some owner occupiers avail themselves of the provisions of the Housing Act relating to Standard Grants, but unfortunately very few landlords.

There are 169 applicants on the Council's waiting list for accommodation. Some young couples live with relatives but this cannot be regarded as satisfactory. Others occupy furnished flats during the winter months but have to vacate them when the summer season starts. They have little opportunity to purchase their own property as prices are so high. There is less accommodation for permanent unfurnished letting than there used to be. Their only possibility, therefore, is Council accommodation. More smaller type houses and flats are required for these young couples with small families, and also for older couples whose children have left home.

Whilst not lacking standard amenities, many of the Council houses of the 1919 and 1923 types require modernisation to bring them into line with housing being built now.

Flatlets have become common in recent years as the tendency is for owners of guest houses to alter their premises so that holidaymakers may cater for themselves instead of being catered for by the proprietors. One must be mindful that very sub-standard conditions may arise in dwellings used for multiple occupation.

The Housing Act which came into force in 1970 provided, where tenanted premises have standard amenities and are in a satisfactory state of repair, a Qualification Certificate may be issued by the Council and the owner, with the sanction of the Rent Officer, may increase the rent.

Housing Act, 1969.

Section 2 - Improvement Grant

Number of applications received	...	4
Number of applications approved	...	Nil
Number of applications not approved	...	4

Section 8 - Standard Grant

Number outstanding from 1970	...	Nil
Number of applications received	...	14
Number of houses inspected	...	13
Number of applications approved	...	11
Number of applications not approved	...	2
Number outstanding at 31.12.71	...	1

Section 45 - Qualification Certificate

Number of applications received	...	12
Number of applications approved	...	11
Number of applications not approved	...	1

Housing Applications

Number of applicants on the Council's list for accommodation at 31.12.71.	...	169
--	-----	-----

Local Authority Housing Programme

Flats provided by conversion	Houses completed 1971	New Flats completed 1971	Flats & Houses in course of construction at 31.12.71.	Proposed Houses 1972	Total Council Houses and Flats
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	17	Pre War 182* Post War 273 Total 455

(* 17 of these were by acquisition and not erection)

New Dwellings

Number of dwellings erected by private enterprise during 1971	...	53
Number of dwellings erected by the Local Authority during 1971	...	Nil

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The Health Services and Public Health Act 1968, amended the list of notifiable diseases and the following are those which are notified now by Act of Parliament -

Cholera	Relapsing fever	Typhus
Plague	Smallpox	Food Poisoning

The Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1968, consolidated with amendments all previous regulations relating to the notification and prevention of infectious disease except the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925.

The diseases for which notification is now made by Regulation are -

Acute encephalitis	Diphtheria	Paratyphoid fever
Acute meningitis	Infective jaundice	Scarlet fever
Acute poliomyelitis	Leprosy	Tetanus
Anoebic dysentery	Leptospirosis	Tuberculosis
Anthrax	Malaria	Typhoid fever
Bacillary dysentery	Measles	Whooping cough
	Ophthalmia neonatorum	Yellow fever

Under the provisions of the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1968, the Council authorised the Medical Officer of Health generally at their meeting in October 1968, to issue any notice on its behalf in relation to any case of typhus, relapsing fever, food poisoning and food-borne infection if, in his opinion, it is immediately and urgently necessary for him to do so for the purpose of preventing the spread of disease.

The incidence of notifiable infectious disease in the district continues to remain low. No case of diphtheria, poliomyelitis or enteric fever (typhoid and paratyphoid fevers) was notified during the year.

The absence of cases of diphtheria and acute poliomyelitis can be attributed to the effective immunisation of infants and young children against these diseases. Babies are immunised with diphtheria, tetanus (lockjaw) and whooping cough vaccine during the second six months of life. A reinforcing dose against diphtheria and tetanus is given just prior to entry to school at five years, and another reinforcing dose of tetanus vaccine at twelve years old.

The scheme for immunisation against acute poliomyelitis includes all persons up to forty years of age and certain priority groups above this age likely to special risk of infection. This includes persons proceeding to areas which have a high incidence of acute poliomyelitis. Almost all immunisation against poliomyelitis is by mouth with the Sabin vaccine which is a modified live virus. The primary doses are given to babies in the second six months of life at the same time as the triple vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough. A reinforcing dose is given on entry to school and again at twelve years old.

The use of measles vaccine, attenuated live virus, which first became available during 1968, is authorised up to sixteen years of age. Five cases of measles were notified in the District during the first half of the year. These cases would probably have been avoided if parents took more advantage of the opportunities for immunising their children against measles. Measles vaccine has reduced the number of cases, locally and nationally, and has altered the epidemiology of the disease which now does not show epidemicity alternate years.

During the year routine vaccination of babies against smallpox was ceased, following advice from the Chief Medical Officer to the Department of Health and Social Security that the risks of the effects of vaccination are now greater than the risk of contracting smallpox in this country.

Rubella (German Measles) Vaccine became available in October 1970 and is offered to 13 year old girls in Secondary Schools. The vaccine, which is a live attenuated virus, is to prevent women from contracting German Measles in pregnancy when infection may lead to a deformed child, with congenital heart disease and/or deafness, blindness and mental subnormality. The injection was accepted by the majority eligible, and caused no known adverse reactions.

Scarlet fever although a mild disease now, is still notifiable. No cases were notified during 1971.

Whooping cough continues to be mild in character; no cases were notified during 1971.

At the end of July there was an outbreak of food poisoning which proved to be due to Salmonella enteritidis in two schools in the town. The outbreak was brought to my attention on the last day of the summer term when it appeared to have been smouldering for a few days. The only school meal available showed no evidence of infection. In nine cases stools were found to be positive for Salmonella enteritidis, four of whom were pupils. There must have been just over 100 cases, most of which were not investigated bacteriologically. Contacts engaged in food handling were given priority in investigations, to stop the infection spreading to visitors to the town. All food handlers at the school were investigated and three found to be positive for Salmonella enteritidis. They were kept under observation and did not resume work until bacteriologically clear. Where appropriate, compensation for loss of earnings was paid under the provisions of Section 41 of the Public Health Act, 1961.

There were also two isolated cases of Salmonella typhimurium, one of which was contracted whilst on holiday on the Continent. As the person lived in the same house as an hotel chef, the patient had to be closely watched until bacteriologically clear.

One case of respiratory tuberculosis was notified. There is no doubt that the incidence of tuberculosis has been reduced considerably by the measures taken over the years. All contacts of cases of tuberculosis are investigated to pick up sources of infection and other new cases. There are no longer open sessions for persons to attend the mass miniature radiography unit for chest x-ray, as it is considered that the number of cases picked up at such sessions do not warrant the time and expense. Instead it has been made much easier for general practitioners to have their patients' chests x-rayed. There is a mass miniature radiography session for patients referred by their doctors once a week in Swanage.

At five years old school entrants are tested for tuberculosis by the Heaf skin test. Very few positives have been found and no positive child has been found to have active tuberculosis. However, a positive skin test at this age does give a lead to unsuspected tuberculosis in the community. At thirteen years of age all school children, whose parents consent, are retested by the Heaf test, and if negative offered vaccination against tuberculosis with B.C.G. vaccine.

At the end of 1971 there were 33 persons (21 male - 12 female) on the Swanage Urban District tuberculosis register; 30 of these were pulmonary tuberculosis (20 male - 10 female) and three non-pulmonary tuberculosis (1 male - 2 female). These figures are the same as for the previous year, and compare with 48 persons ten years ago.

Brucellosis in humans is not a notifiable disease but publicity in the scheme for eradication of brucellosis in cattle has increased awareness of human brucellosis. No case of human brucellosis occurred as far as is known in the District. Pasteurisation renders milk safe against Tuberculosis.

Vaccination and Immunisation Statistics, Swanage U.D. 1971.

(P = Primary course R = Reinforcing dose)

Polionyelitis				Diphtheria		Tetanus		Whooping cough		Smallpox		Measles	Rubella
Oral		Injection		P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	P
P	R	P	R										
93	221	-	-	87	39	116	174	83	2	41	36	82	43

Infectious Disease Notification (Corrected) Figures - 1971.

Disease	Total	1st. Qtr.	2nd. Qtr.	3rd. Qtr.	4th. Qtr.	Admitted to Hospital
Food Poisoning	12	-	1	11	-	1 admitted
Measles	5	1	2	2	-	-
Tuberculosis - respiratory	1	-	-	1	-	Admitted

Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified During 1971.

Disease	Total	Age Group				
		Under 5	5-14	15-44	45-64	65 & over
Food Poisoning	12	-	5	5	2	-
Measles	5	2	3	-	-	-
Tuberculosis - respiratory	1	-	-	-	-	1

Scabies and Verminous Conditions

There were no reports under this heading.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - Section 47 (Removal of Persons in Need of Care and Attention to Suitable Premises)
NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

It was not necessary to take formal action under this section of the Act during the year.

Public Health Laboratory Service.

The Public Health Laboratory Service has continued to give excellent service. The Dorchester Laboratory, under the direction of Dr. G.H. Tee, has dealt with all the work for this District.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

Part I of the Act

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	42	53	7	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	3	12	2	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority excluding outworkers premises	-	-	-	-
Total	45	70	9	-

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which Defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Re- medied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S1)	6	6	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	1	1	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including Offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	11	11	-	1	-

PART VIII of the Act

OUTWORK - Sections 133 and 134

Outworkers - Nil.

METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS - 1971

Month	Sunshine (hours)	Rainfall (mm.)	Temperature °C	
			Maximum	Minimum
January	44.7	124.14	8	4
February	97.7	22.89	9	3
March	145.6	50.30	9	3
April	177.9	41.90	12	5
May	259.1	32.30	15	8
June	226.5	131.00	17	10
July	315.5	15.75	21	14
August	175.6	41.80	20	14
September	227.6	8.00	19	12
October	145.6	69.80	16	14
November	123.8	58.90	12	4
December	38.5	31.00	9	6
Total	1978.1	627.78		
Monthly average	164.8	52.32	13.1	8

In the Southern I.T.V. Sunshine League, Swanage was first with 1,204 hours, from May to September inclusive.

The total rainfall in 1971 was well below the average.

